



Hope Reigns In Pontiac

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Livingston County city's residents believe the removal of Governor Blagojevich will keep Pontiac State Prison open.

With a new governor comes new hope for the people of Pontiac. "Ding dong the Governor's gone." That was the impromptu song being sung at a Pontiac restaurant Friday. "People are absolutely excited, they're jubilant I think in part because they believe this can be what will save Pontiac," said State Senator Dan Rutherford. Pontiac residents are still celebrating the end of the Blagojevich era. And some say though it could mean great things for the town, Thursday was still a sad day in Illinois. I"t's kind of a bitter sweet, .but more sweet than bitter". Pontiac restaurant owner, Stephanie DeLong, says the former governor's plans to close Pontiac Prison turned her family's life upside down. And although there's renewed hope for the prison to stay open, her husband already has transferred to another facility. "So many people were already leaving and transferring, and uprooting their lives, putting their houses up for sale...so we thought that if he went to Dwight, that's close enough to home," said DeLong. Over a dozen Pontiac teachers also celebrated Blagojevich's conviction. They say new hope for the prison means more families will stay in town, keeping the schools open. "I'm hoping that that makes a big change for Pontiac because of all the changes that he's made here," said Pontiac teacher Nicole Pomerenko. "Quinn talking like he is, he wants to revisit everything and go through it logically and take a look. I think we're in a great position to save the prison," said Pontiac Mayor Scott McCoy. And State Senator Dan Rutherford says although he is hesitant to get hopes up too high, he believes the governor will take a serious look at what can be done with Pontiac. "I have met with Governor Quinn on this, we've talked about it, he is very open to looking at where we are with it." But for now, Pontiac residents are celebrating a new era in Illinois government.

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